

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 082963
ORIGIN NEA-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-05 ISO-00 /009 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T STATE 082963

LIMDIS

FOL REPEAT ISLAMABAD 3592 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 13 APR.

QUOTE

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 3592

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION ISLAMABAD INFO LAHORE FROM KARACHI
APRIL 13 REPEATED YOU:

QUOTE SECRET KARACHI 1729

LIMDIS NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PK, PINT

SUBJECT: DISPLACEMENT OF PRIME MINISTER

REF: KARACHI 1726, (B) MOORE-SCHAFER TELECONS

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1. OUR JOURNALISTIC SOURCES DESCRIBE THE CURRENT STATE
OF PLAY AS FOLLOWS:

A. BHUTTO IS NO LONGER ACTING AS PRIME MINISTER
BUT IS IN ARMY CUSTODY IN LAHORE, AS RELAYED TO SCHAFER
IN OUR TELECON.

B. THE ARMY CONTINUES TO SEEK A POLITICAL SOLUTION WITH A NEUTRAL PRIME MINISTER IN HOPES OF AVOIDING MARTIAL LAW. HOWEVER, SERIOUS CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO FULL OR AT LEAST PARTIAL (IN BIG CITIES) MARTIAL LAW TO PREVENT AN OUTBURST OF REVENGE AGAINST THE POLICE AND THE PPP. IN ANY CASE, BHUTTO AND HIS FAMILY WILL HAVE TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY. PLANS ARE BEING MADE FOR THEIR SAFE DEPARTURE TO EXILE ABROAD. SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE IS THE MOST LIKELY PLACE, BUT THE U.S. CANNOT BE RULED OUT AS POSSIBILITY.

C. PPP REPRESENTATIVES ARE IN ON THE CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS IN LAHORE BECAUSE IT IS A POLITICAL SOLUTION THAT IS SOUGHT, ANBVAS ORDERLY A TRANSITION AS POSSIBLE. THE FORMATION OF SMALLER PARTIES SPUN OFF FROM THE PPP, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF VARIOUS PPP FIGURES, IS BEING CONSIDERED. THE DESIRED SCENARIO WOULD HAVE BHUTTO ANNOUNCING HIS OWN RESIGNATION AND NAMING HIS SUCCESSOR AS HEAD OF A CARETAKER GOVERNMENT, ONCE A SUCCESSOR CAN BE AGREED UPON. OUR SOURCES HAVE NO NAMES TO OFFER AS LIKELY PROSPECTS.

D. THE CONSULTATIONNIARE PROCEEDING IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF GREAT URGENCY BECAUSE A MAJOR BREAKDOWN OF ORDER AT LEAST IN THE CITIES IS FEARED AS A REAL POSSIBILITY.

2. IN ALMOST ANY SOCIAL OR BUSINESS CONVERSATION THAT ONE HAS WITH PAKISTANIS NOW THE MAIN TOPIC IS BHUTTO'S IMPENDING RESIGNATPXN, WHICH IS ASSUMED BY VIRTUALLY
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EVERYONE TOTOE IMMINENT. MOORE UNQUOTE DFROADE

UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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SAS ID: 2818326
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISPLACEMENT OF PRIME MINISTER
TAGS: PINT, PK, (BHUTTO, ZULFIKAR ALI)
To: PARIS
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